

INVENTORY OF MATERIALS

Counties

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Title: Edray District Pocahontas County

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Contents: Family complete account of Edray District, Pocahontas County. Givns, location, boundaries, surface, drainage, first settlers, description of first mills, school, post office; early churches & ministers; story of massacre of Drennen family.

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Reba & Seages
McNeill
Drennen's Search

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History

Edray district lies in the western part of the county, is bounded on the north by Randolph County; northeast by Greenbank District; east by Huntersville district; south by Little levels District and west by Webster County. The surface is rough and mountainous. In the north are the Middle Mountains and southern continuations of the Elk and Cheat Mountains; in the center are the Black Mountains and in the east and southeast rise the lofty peaks of Buckley, Marlins and Brushy ranges.

The principal drainage is to the west with the exceptions of Swago Creek, Stony Creek and one or two other small streams which flow east and fall into the Greenbrier River. All the streams flow west and form the head waters of Gauley and Elk. ~~They have been named in the general view of the county.~~

~~The first cabin home built within the limits of Edray District was that erected by Marlin and Sewell near the present site of Greenbrier Bridge in the 1749 and which was long known as Marlins Bottom now changed to Marlinton, the county seat of Pocahontas County. This settlement was as tho' it had not been. The first actual settlers who found what they were looking for - HOMES - were Thomas Drennin, Jacob Warwick, William Sharp, Robert Moore, John Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Robert Gay, William Poage, Patrick Slaterly, Robert Duffle, Thomas Brock, Lawrence Drennin and John Smith.~~

The first grist mill was built by Jonathan McNeill in the early part of 1800. It was located on Swago Creek, a short distance from its mouth.

Of those mentioned as the pioneers of the district, several were soldiers with General Lewis in the battle at Point Pleasant and among them were Thomas Drennin. He was the first settler on the land where Edray post office is located. Soon after he built his cabin home, it was attacked in his absence by the Indians, who killed his wife and a woman named Smith and carried his son into captivity. When Mr. Drennin returned home and beheld his home in ruins and his beloved wife still in death and thought of his son perhaps reserved for a worse fate, his heart failed within him but a few days later he repaired to Fort Union and volunteered in the army then concentrating. He accompanied it to Point Pleasant, participated in the battle and in the march beyond the Ohio.

At the close of the War he returned to his mountain home but there all ties for him were severed and he resolved to journey to the west and there, among savage tribes search for his beloved son. On the eve of his departure on his hazardous mission his neighbors gathered to bid him God-speed. Then with his rifle he pushed out into the wilderness. A long year passed away and there was no tidings of him for there were none to bring them and his friends believed that he had fallen a victim to savage cruelty, but not so; he had journeyed far to the north-west and found his son in the possession of a trader near Detroit, Mich. The homeward journey was begun and at last both reached home and lived long in what is now Pocahontas County. Drennins Ridge, now owned by Mrs. Alice Robertson, keeps ever in memory the name of the brave pioneer, Drennin.

Pella G. Geages

HISTORY OF DUNMORE COMMUNITY
(by Ella Pritchard)

Sometime between 1740 and 1750 the King of England sent a young man to America to survey for him. He surveyed and bought for his own a large boundary of land east of the Greenbrier River, west of the Allegheny Mountain. This brave Englishman was Lieut. Warwick. His boundary included all the land owned now by H.M. Moore, the Pritchards, McLaughlins and many other land owners who have bought off of these large farms.

Lieut. Warwick married Miss Elizabeth Dunlap, making his home at Dunmore, three miles east of the C&O Station, Sitlington, on the Greenbrier Division. Five miles west of the Virginia line, just north of the center of the county. Lieut. Warwick returned to England leaving his wife and little son Jacob, Lieut. Warwick died on this trip. His widow married Robert Setlington of Bath County, Virginia, making their home at Dunmore until Jacob Warwick, jr. was twenty-one years old. His mother had secured a deed for him covering all the land owned by his father, Lieut. Warwick.

Setlington's Creek was named for Robert Setlington.

In late years of the Seventeenth Century a fort was built near where the Dunmore postoffice now stands, for the protection of pioneer settlers against Indianraids. A covered walk was built from the fort to the creek so they could always get water in safety.

The Warwick property descended to Jacob Warwick's grandsons, Jacob and Andrew Mathews. Jacob Mathews owned the E. N. Moore place. After the death of his wife the land was sold to B. F. Jackson, who sold the property to E. A. Smith and from him it came into the possession of E. E. Moore. Andrew Mathews lived on the land now owned by the Pritchards